

Serial No. 09/967,218

Docket No.: KCC-15,529

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A strengthened polypropylene textile fiber, wherein the consisting essentially of polypropylene blended with is selected from the group consisting of propylene homopolymers, copolymers containing up to about 10% by weight ethylene, and C₄-C₂₀ alpha-olefin comonomers, and wherein the polypropylene textile fiber is strengthened by about 0.59-4% by weight impact modifier of ethylene-propylene-diene monomer, wherein the impact modifier that has elastomeric properties such that it can be elongated by at least 50% of its relaxed length by an applied force and that it will recover upon release of the applied force at least 40% of its elongation, and is selected from the group consisting of ethylene-propylene-diene monomer, styrene/ethylene-co-butadiene/styrene, styrene-poly(ethylene-propylene)-styrene poly(ethylene-propylene), multi-block elastomeric copolymers, polyurethanes, polyamides, polyesters, single site or metallocene catalyzed polyolefins having density less than about 0.89 grams/cc, and ethylene/styrene wherein the strengthened polypropylene textile fiber is softer than a comparable non-strengthened polypropylene fiber as determined by a Cup Crush Test.

Claims 2-4 (Canceled)

5. (Original) A spunbond fiber comprising the textile fiber of Claim 1.
6. (Original) A staple fiber comprising the textile fiber of Claim 1.
7. (Original) A multi-fiber yarn comprising the textile fiber of Claim 1.
8. (Original) A knit fabric comprising the textile fiber of Claim 1.

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9. (Original) A woven fabric comprising the textile fiber of Claim 1.
10. (Original) A nonwoven fabric comprising the textile fiber of Claim 1.
11. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the nonwoven fabric of Claim 10.

Claims 12-19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven fabric comprising a plurality of modified polypropylene fibers, wherein the modified fibers consisting essentially of polypropylene blended is selected from the group consisting of propylene homopolymers, copolymers containing up to about 10% by weight ethylene, and C₄-C₂₀ alpha-olefin comonomers, and wherein the modified polypropylene fibers are strengthened with about 1-25% by weight impact modifier of ethylene-propylene-diene monomer, wherein the impact modifier that has elastomeric properties such that it can be elongated by at least 50% of its relaxed length by an applied force and that it will recover upon release of the applied force at least 40% of its elongation, and is selected from the group consisting of ethylene-propylene diene monomer, styrene/ethylene-co-butadiene/styrene, and styrene-poly(ethylene-propylene)-styrene-poly(ethylene-propylene) wherein the modified polypropylene fibers are softer than comparable non-modified polypropylene fibers as determined by a Cup Crush Test.

21. (Original) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 20, wherein the modified fibers comprise about 2-15% by weight impact modifier.
22. (Original) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 20, wherein the modified fibers comprise about 3-10% by weight impact modifier.
23. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the nonwoven fabric of Claim 20.

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